

Human Trafficking Coordinating Council
Draft Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2016 @ 3:00 PM
Superior Court Conference Room, 10th Floor
New Castle County Courthouse
Wilmington, DE 19801

In Attendance: **Natalie Haskins** (Proxy for Loretta Young Designee for FC CJ), **Linda Carmichael** (Designee for Superior Court), **Mary McDonough** (Designee for CCP), **Periann Doko** (Designee of AG), **Kimberly Chandler** (Designee for DSHS), **Lisa Schwind** (Designee for ODS), **Dr. Leslie Brower** (Designee for Rita Landgraf), **John Sebastian** (Designee for DOC), **Dr. Stephen Lawless** (Heath Care Community Representative), **Yolanda Schlabach** (At Large)

Not Present: Alan Davis (JP), Tina Shockley (K12), Alison McGonigal (DSCYF), Vanessa Phillips (DOL), Julie Johnson (DOJ)

Members of the Public: Kiki Evinger (State Rep. Bryon Short), Patty D'Angelo (CCP), Fay Whittle (LWV & PMD), Zoe Plerhoples (DOJ), Oliver Cleary (DOJ), Nancy McGee (SAND), and support staff, Tara Sherbinko.

Periann Doko, leading the meeting for Loretta Young, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:06 pm. Following introductions, Ms. Doko congratulated all participants on a successful Human Trafficking Conference that took place on November 17, 2016. Nancy McGee stated that following the conference, feedback forms were submitted for review. There was a lot of positive feedback which praised the joint effort from different agencies for the conference along with the relating back to issues that occur specifically in the state of Delaware. All presenters received high marks and all people were generally excited to be able to obtain the information in order to implement it going forward. The attendees also felt informed enough and empowered from the conference to feel able to move forward with identifying human trafficking within their own agencies. Overall the conference was well attended and some attendees were turned away at the door. Over 600 attendees were present at the conference which was a phenomenal turnout for the first major human trafficking conference for the state.

There was a motion and a second to approve the minutes from the June 6, 2016 meeting. The minutes were approved after a minor change (specifically noting which Lisa would coordinate a committee) to the Draft Minutes.

There was also a motion and a second to approve the minutes from the September 12, 2016 meeting. The minutes were approved after a minor change (indicating the attendance of Mary McDonough and Linda Carmichael) to the Draft Minutes.

The HTCC continues efforts to organize records and maintain a database of voting members and committee chairs and members. An updated membership list was compiled with current members and designees by Tara Sherbinko for Commissioner Young. No changes were requested to the current member list.

By the meeting agenda, voting on open positions was addressed. The three At Large positions, per the statute, are elected at the first meeting of each calendar year. Currently the At Large positions

are split (one member per county). It was surmised that the yearly voting might be to address if any new agencies out there that would like to be involved, who can provide services, on the Human Trafficking Coordinating Council as an At Large member.

With regards to the Chair position, which began to be addressed over the summer when the last Chair resigned, the statute states that the council shall elect a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson in December of each year. There is currently no interest in the Chairperson position. Current issues include support staff, funding, and legislative/state support of the council.

Legislative support was discussed in addition to HTCC statutory changes in order to provide more certainty for the council going forward. Kiki Evinger spoke to the legislature's interest in the HTCC but offered up information to help change some of the initial statutory language to help the future of the HTCC. She suggested contacting the original bill sponsors, including Representative Keeley and Senator Henry, with specific applicable changes in order to move forward in the legislature. She also recommended contacting Representative Smith to get involved with budgetary, expense, and thing. Ms. Doko will ask the DOJ for statute change help.

Funding was discussed as well. There are direct services (for offenders/victims) grants from the CJC available for non-profit organizations, who could partner with the HTCC. While the HTCC needs funding more for public awareness and education, the funding could be channeled in through the "direct services" umbrella with a non-profit's assistance. State agencies are also able to apply for these same grants.

Commissioner McDonough requested the council to consider moving the meetings to 4:00 pm as she is unable to attend the meetings prior to then due to judicial calendars heard during the day.

Commissioner McDonough motioned to vote for the vacant New Castle County At Large position. She urged the HTCC to vote and not push is off, as her last nominee withdrew her name from consideration. Ms. Doko informed Commissioner McDonough that the At Large positions are voted on at the first meeting of each year, which would be in March. Commissioner McDonough also noted that the At Large positions were not voted on for 2016, as their members carried over from a prior vote. Vacancies also should be addressed in between voting periods. Commissioner McDonough wished to address a "double standard" which exists between the statutory members and community (At Large) members in a variety of ways. Ms. Brower recommended convening a meeting of the Executive Committee due to the time sensitive nature of addressing the issues that would need to be put forward to the legislature for statutory changes.

Commissioner McDonough motioned to have a meeting in January to vote on the vacant At Large position, since the council has not made much progress in its two years. She impressed the need to have a vote at the meeting rather than waiting for an email to be circulated on a good day in January to have a meeting. The motion was seconded by Leslie Brower. The main purpose of the meeting would be to fill the current vacancies in the council (Chair, Vice Chair, and At Large).

Commissioner McDonough motioned to vote for the vacant New Castle County At Large position and nominated Rita Landgraf, who will be leaving DHSS and going to the University of Delaware in January 2017. She currently is a statutory member and agreed to be nominated as an At-Large

member. Ms. Landgraf will be coordinating a community to academic effort between the institution and the larger community.

Commissioner McDonough shared why the HTCC lost the previous New Castle County At Large candidate, which is the double standard between community members and statutory members. The double standard creates conflict and a lack of respect to a candidate who is already working with a non-profit which is already actively working in the community to aid human trafficking victims. Due to the double standard, the candidate withdrew her name as she felt it was not the best use of her time.

January is Human Trafficking Awareness month. Commissioner McDonough recognized Nancy McGee who has made the Public Awareness Committee's "wish list" come true. A public awareness campaign will be debuted during January. Six sectors will be targeted, including: medical care, transportation, education, hotels, so called "adult entertainment" facilities (massage parlors), and retail with high school student with community service involvement. Nancy McGee committed \$3,000 from the Sexual Assault Network and Kathy Weaver, Vice-President of Mercy Health System, has offered \$2,000 from St. Francis Hospital also for this public awareness effort. Commissioner McDonough recognized the hard work of Nancy McGee, Patty D'Angelo, Faye Whittle, and Mary Darby for this public awareness effort. Nancy McGee identified an assortment of items for the Public Awareness Campaign Blitz, including: flyers and bumper stickers. Public Services Announcements will be published throughout January, including a radio interview to provide information statewide. Commissioner McDonough also informed the HTCC that Mary Darby received the governor's commitment to issue a Governor's Proclamation and be involved in a press conference along with some others.

Commissioner McDonough also identified that the statute also mandates the creation of a public awareness sign for Delaware. Faye Whittle lined up a graphic designer, which worked with Patty D'Angelo tirelessly to create the public awareness sign (to be used as flyers and bumper stickers). This sign was circulated throughout the HTCC and only received only positive comments back from the council with approval. Commissioner requested volunteers to help with giving talks and distributing materials throughout the state. High school students will also assist with getting the word out (specifically noted was a student from Cab Calloway high school who started a student group called the "Abolitionists" and recruited 20 other students to help her in addition to Archmere's Social Justice Group). During the scheduled press conference, an itinerary of all the different training at different levels occurring statewide will be provided to the press. Commissioner also failed to mention Dr. Silvana Croope from DelDot to help with the Public Awareness Blitz. This extra help has supplemented the efforts made by Yolanda Schlabach and Leslie Brower.

Oliver Cleary (DOJ) contact Elizabeth Zimmer (US Dept. of Labor Wage Division) regarding ongoing efforts in the State of Delaware to combat human trafficking. She is a Community Outreach Coordinator for human trafficking efforts in the greater Philadelphia Area. She regretted that she was unable to attend this meeting due to short notice but was interested in attending the next meeting. Mr. Cleary believes her goal is to provide additional resources for the State of Delaware to combat human trafficking by providing access to regional information. Ms. Doko related she came

from a meeting with the federal government as there is a concentrated effort to work on human trafficking cases in Delaware at this time.

There was no other public input.

The next scheduled meeting date is March, 2017.

Periann Doko thanked everyone for their participation and the meeting was adjourned.

T. Sherbinko
Family Court